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United States Patent [19]

Umeda et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,278,217**[45] Date of Patent: **Jan. 11, 1994****[54] WATER ABSORPTIVE COMPOSITION**

[56]

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[57]

ABSTRACT

A water absorptive composition comprising a thermoplastic elastomer as a first component, a water-absorptive resin as a second component, and a third component selected from the group which consists of: a water-soluble resin; a hydrophilic compound selected from the group consisting of metal salt of carboxylic acid, polyhydric alcohol, amino alcohol, linear polyether, saccharide, and sugar alcohol; and a surface treating agent selected from the group consisting of sorbitan fatty acid ester, glycidyl ether of polyhydric alcohol, and silane coupling agent. The composition is suitably used for producing a water absorptive member for protecting optical fiber elements of an optical fiber cable.

15 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

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[58] Field of Search **524/503, 504, 505, 506, 524/522, 525, 56, 47, 394, 379; 428/407**